

“There is nothing new about the idea of ‘classic fusion’ other than a philosophical consideration. The world we live in and all its diverse music genres represent the music of our times. If these elements can be unified into a classical music vision, then we have honoured and portrayed the times we live in.”

(John Thrower)

What is JohnThrowerMusic.com? new paths in music...

by Jan Willems

There are many ideas that happen out of necessity. One could maintain that the above company was one of them.

I remember a particular early morning phone-call from my long-time friend John Thrower. More than twenty years ago we had both embarked on the path of digital music notation before most people knew it even existed. He opted for Finale® software and I went for Score®.

But he was in a serious mood on that day... perhaps even in a slightly bad mood. “A publishing company just offered me one hundred Euros for my clarinet concerto”, he stated in a subdued tone of voice. “I phoned the guy and told him to shove it.”

Of course, the gloomy mood was understandable. The clarinet concerto (Improvisation on a Blue Theme) was a high quality work. It had been recorded by the CBC

Vancouver Radio Orchestra some years back, and was nominated for a JUNO - award by the Canadian recording industry. And this publisher had the audacity to offer the composer enough money for an modest night out on the town — without cocktails.

That was the beginning of JohnThrowerMusic.com.

After that phone call, both John and I searched the major publishing houses for a solution. We couldn't find any. It was very clear: The modern classical music publishing business was in a crisis, if not almost extinct.

JohnThrowerMusic.com was started some time later in early 2006. I work as a digital copyist in the global music industry, so my job was to do the final layout and printing.

Angela Ulrich, who is the company manager and also on

the board of directors of the Heilbronn Symphony Orchestra in Germany, came on some time later to manage the company.

My son, Jan Willems junior, who is a computer-programmer and is still studying, came on to do the website.

So there it is.

This company is one of deep friendship and mutual interest. There is a lot of experience in the four people who do all this, but at the end of the day... we are just good friends with a vision: To help John get his music out and to always be open to explore new paths in music... we think it's worth it.

By the way, the clarinet concerto (Improvisation on a Blue Theme/no. 0519) will be coming out soon as the ink is dry.

(September 2008)

JT